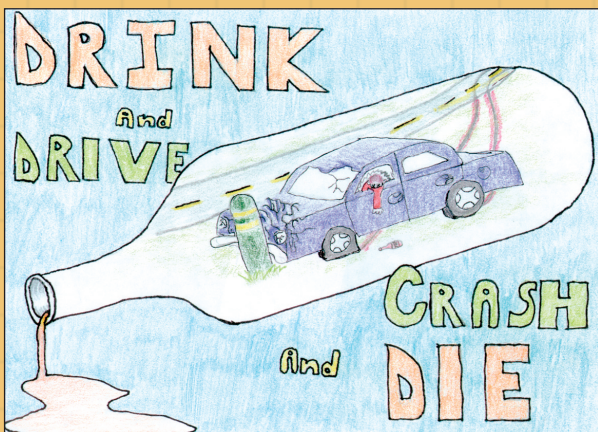


**The Dakota County Level II Youth Accountability Program is designed to provide education and awareness of drug and alcohol use to second time offenders.**

The program is designed to appropriately deal with violations by juveniles of alcohol and marijuana possession laws by holding youth accountable for their actions while also providing them with the services that they need. The program is for juveniles who are at high risk of continuing to use alcohol or other drugs, as evidenced by their second offense.



Lindsey Dragan - Crystal Lake Elementary - 2003

## Resources

### First Call for Help

(651) 291-0211

TDD 1-800-627-3529

(Assistance to citizens in search of community services)

### Dakota County Public Health

(651) 554-6100

### Dakota County Crisis Intervention

(952) 891-7171

### Dakota County Detox Center

(651) 437-4209

### Dakota County Child & Family Service - Intake

(952) 891-7400

### Dakota County Child Protection

(952) 891-7459

### River Ridge Treatment Center

(952) 894-7722

Minnesota law requires that schools be informed of all alleged drug and alcohol violations by a student occurring on or off of school property. This notice will be given whether or not the juvenile chooses to participate in the program.

**For more information regarding the Youth Accountability Program, contact:**

### PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Dakota County Attorney's Office

1560 Highway 55

Hastings, MN 55033

(651) 438-4438

[www.co.dakota.mn.us/attorney](http://www.co.dakota.mn.us/attorney)

**ALCOHOL  
& MARIJUANA**

## YOUTH ACCOUNTABILITY PROGRAM - LEVEL II -

A program for  
second time offenders

JAMES C. BACKSTROM  
DAKOTA COUNTY ATTORNEY



# Dangerous

## Why the Youth Accountability Program?

The program is an alternative to court for juveniles who have been apprehended a second time for illegal use of alcohol or marijuana. The program is designed to help youth learn new positive thinking skills and methods to lower the risk of continued use of alcohol and drugs. In addition to providing information about education and awareness of drug and alcohol use, the series of classes will help juveniles become more aware of their thought process during emotional times or when under pressure and the choices they make.

## Who is Eligible for the Program?

1. Second time offenders who have committed a possession/consumption of alcohol or possession of marijuana or drug paraphernalia offense and who were not the driver of a vehicle at the time of the offense.
2. Juveniles referred by school officials because of alcohol or drug use.
3. Juveniles referred by the Court.
4. Any juvenile who voluntarily enrolls in the program.

## What are the Components of the Program?

1. The juvenile must attend a series of four classes that are each two and one-half hours in length. The classes are held weekly for four consecutive weeks and attendance is required at each class or the juvenile will be terminated from the program.
2. At least one parent must attend a designated portion of the program with the juvenile.
3. The juvenile must pay a fee at the start of the class. If a family is financially unable to pay the fee, but desires to participate in the program, the juvenile's parent or guardian should contact the Program Coordinator.
4. The juvenile must complete all of the conditions of the program which may include in-class assignments and exercises and urinalysis tests (UA).

## What Happens when a juvenile doesn't choose to participate in the Program?

Marijuana is often a gateway drug to other more deadly drugs. Using marijuana is dangerous and addictive.

If you or someone you know has been using drugs, there is help available. Talk to a school counselor, a parent, or friend and check the back of this brochure for some valuable resource numbers.

## What Benefits are provided through the Program?

1. Juveniles will be provided with education to raise awareness of their drug and/or alcohol use.
2. Juveniles will be involved in a process to help them learn new positive thinking skills by recognizing their patterns of thinking and feeling and how that influences their behavior.
3. Parents will be provided with information on their role in prevention and communication.
4. A consistent and appropriate sanction will be provided for all second-time offenders.
5. The juvenile's citation will be dismissed if the series of four consecutive classes are attended.
6. The juvenile will not lose their driver's license, which would happen if they went through the court process.

1. The County Attorney's Office will notify the Court to process the juvenile's citation.
2. The juvenile will be notified of a date to appear in court.
3. If the juvenile is found to have committed the offense, the result would be a fine and a driver's license suspension.
4. The juvenile will have a court record of being found to have committed the offense.